

**Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
August Meeting Minutes  
Friday, August 8, 2014  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hanover, Maryland**

**Members Present**

Robert Gaston  
Scott Hansen  
Christopher Hersl  
Gregory Hinchliffe  
Jon Morrison  
Erin Penniston  
Carl Rebele  
(*Jennifer M. Jones for*) Marci Ross  
Fred Shaffer  
Patrick Sheehan  
Carol Silldorff  
(*Michael Jackson for*) James T. Smith, Jr.  
Jennifer R. Terrasa  
Cari Watrous  
John Z. Wetmore  
Michael Jackson (staff)

**Members Absent**

Steve Carr  
Richard Cushwa  
Kevin Racine  
Michael Tagliaferri  
James G. Titus

**Visitors Present**

Emily Ranson, Bike Maryland

Acting Chair Greg Hinchliffe started the meeting at 9:30 AM. Christopher Hersl, the new representative from the Maryland State Department of Education, was welcomed.

**1. Approval of the June Meeting Minutes**

Carl Rebele moved and Fred Shaffer seconded Carl's motion to approve the June meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**2. Subcommittee Reports**

A. Commuting and Transportation – C&T Subcommittee chair Greg Hinchliffe submitted a written report. Scott Hansen distributed a card from the Maryland Department of Planning which announced the 30<sup>th</sup> installment of their Model & Guidelines documents. This installment covers planning tools for transit-oriented development. He continues his work with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council on implementing a bicycle and pedestrian facility GIS-based online database. He worked with Mike Sheffer of the Maryland State Highway Administration to fix several issues with downloading the State bicycle map on the Cycle Maryland website

The report noted Jim Titus's work in seeking to add the provision of bicycle parking facilities at transit stations as an eligible item for funding under Maryland's Commuter Choice program. Noting that Maryland offers a transit subsidy benefit to State employees who use Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) buses, light rail and subway services, Jim is advocating that the State offer similar benefits for State employees who use transit services other than the above referenced MTA transit services (e.g. Metrorail transit and MARC commuter rail). He plans to introduce a resolution at a future MBPAC that recommends that MDOT provide free bicycle parking for employees who regularly commute by MARC or light rail and that the MTA evaluate whether such a benefit be offered to all State employees. The C&T subcommittee report also noted that State Highway Administration (SHA) staff has contacted the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission about a proposal to extend the WB&A Trail from its current western terminus to parallel MD 704/Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway.

Bob Gaston who serves on both the C&T and Tourism and Product Development subcommittees deferred his report to the T&PD subcommittee segment because the nature of his comments were more relevant to the work of T&PD. Greg reported continued liaison with SHA and community groups regarding the MD 170 bicycle safety retrofit project in northern Anne Arundel County.

Fred said that 30 percent design plans had been completed on a trail project connecting Bladensburg and Cheverly and bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the New Carrollton and the Crescents at Largo communities. He noted that a recently passed County law which requires developers to provide bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the vicinity of their developments is helping to fund a trail parallel to MD 214/Central Avenue within the Capital Beltway. This law also requires developers to provide bicycle and pedestrian facility amenities in new subdivisions located in designated corridors. Michael Jackson said that Fred and he collaborated on the submission of a Rivers, Trails and Community Assistance grant application to the National Park Service for the purpose of providing assistance to NPS's National Capital Parks East unit to develop a feasibility study for the planning and construction of a Suitland Parkway shared use path between Joint Base Andrews and the District of Columbia line.

B. Education and Awareness – E&A Subcommittee chair Erin Penniston submitted a written report which provided information on various reports relating to the promotion of physical activity and traffic safety for bicyclists and pedestrians including SHA's bicycle safety campaign, *Expect and Respect*. Carol Silldorff, noting that the campaign had a late roll out, would like to see more funding devoted to evaluating which of several advertising strategies being used (e.g. billboards, transit, gas pump toppers) are the most effective in terms of reaching roadway users. She serves on the Expect and Respect advisory panel. Michael reported seeing *Expect and Respect* signs on a restaurant table in Silver Spring, on the entrance doorway to a restaurant in Glen Burnie, on the back of a MTA transit bus, on a gas pump topper in Burtonsville and as a recorded message while being placed on hold after calling SHA. Jennifer Jones noted that SHA had promoted *Expect and Respect* messages as part of modified bicycle whose wheel slung paint when it was pedaled which was one of the attractions at the annual Artscape event in Baltimore. Carol said she would ask SHA staff to provide information on anticipated *Expect and Respect* future funding allocations, 2015 campaign timeline and her request for a campaign evaluation and report back to MBPAC.

C. Legislation and Government Affairs – No formal report was submitted. John Wetmore reported that the US Congress has extended MAP-21 federal transportation funding program until May 2015. He spoke to Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) to discuss a recommendation for a best practices report directed at utilities for the construction of shared use paths along pipeline rights-of-ways. John opined that the best to get concessions of out the Potomac Electric and Power Company (PEPCO)

regarding allowing shared use paths along their utility rights-of-way is during the merger discussions with Exelon Energy. John would like include trails as part of the definition of “public interest.” Jon asked if MDOT or another state agency would be involved with the PEPCO/Exelon merger. Greg suggested that John draft a resolution relating to this issue for MBPAC’s consideration at the October meeting.

Michael suggested that L&GA members meet with Kristen Weiss, MDOT’s State Legislative Officer in the near future to discuss upcoming legislative proposals affecting pedestrians and bicyclists. Carol suggested that Emily Ranson, Bike Maryland’s Advocacy Coordinator, bring recreational bicycling clubs together to discuss their concerns regarding needs of their members. Noting the chair of the Maryland General Assembly’s Bicycle Caucus is now vacant, there was brief discussion of potential legislative candidates to fill that position. Jon noted that Montgomery County councilmember Hans Reimer is seeking to establish five bicycle and pedestrian priority areas within the county.

Patrick Sheehan provided updates related to persons with disabilities. He said that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is working to improve accessibility to bus stops and on improved intersection design in Prince George’s County so as to reduce the need for door-to-door paratransit services. No word on when the proposed federal guidelines on accessibility and Quiet Car recommendations will be enacted into law. SHA now has identified 1625 intersections that are scheduled to be outfitted with accessible pedestrian signalization. John wondered why SHA only paints three crosswalks at intersections where there are actually four crosswalks and said SHA should reevaluate that policy. He asked to what extent county governments get support from SHA when seeking to improve non-motorized accessibility at State highways.

D. Tourism and Product Development – T&PD Subcommittee chair Dick Cushwa submitted a written report delivered by Carl. He praised Steve Carr’s initiated Department of Natural Resources website changes. Jennifer Jones said the Office of Tourism Development wants bicycle maps to hand out at its display table they will man at the Tour du Port bicycle ride event on September 21<sup>st</sup>. She noted that the Chesapeake House has reopened along I-95 after being renovated. Bob said his focus has been on trail and bridge improvement issues in DNR owned parks and forests in Cecil County. Trails in the Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area suffered washouts following heavy spring rains. Preparations are underway for the construction of a new trail in Elk Neck State Forest that will provide an off-road connection between North East and Elkton. Bob would like to see a better balance between public needs and internal policies at DNR.

The T&PD subcommittee report noted various improvements on facilities in Western Maryland including the receipt of \$70,000 in bikeways funding by the City of Hagerstown from MDOT for bikeway improvements, a request for proposal from Garrett County to construct a bridge over the Youghiogheny River, new bike lanes being installed in Williamsport, MDOT plans to submit a nomination for a US Bicycle Route 11 through Washington County to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and a DNR announcement regarding the schedule for extending the Western Maryland Rail Trail westerly by 4.5 miles from Pearre Station to Little Orleans.

### **3. The Big Book of Maryland Bicycle Touring**

Michael gave a presentation on MDOT’s draft plans to create a book on Maryland bicycle tours. His presentation discussed the rationale for doing so, minimum number of tour routes per county, desire to showcase Maryland’s natural, historic and cultural amenities, and specific book design features. Potential partners were mentioned. Michael also described the features of bicycle tour books from

Maine, Minnesota and Wisconsin and responses he received from his counterparts at Minnesota and Wisconsin DOT's regarding how these guidebooks were received by the public. MBPAC member feedback included designation of family friendly bicycle tours (i.e. those suitable for children being accompanied by adults), providing a list of bicycle shops and other services in the back pages and having print friendly copies available on-line. Carol and Cari recommended focusing mostly on electronic distribution in order to save money. Jennifer and Michael responded that there is still strong demand for hard copies of tourist materials. Michael noted that Wisconsin had distributed 100,000 print copies of its bicycle touring publication.

#### **4. Other Business**

Greg mentioned the MBPAC website had deficiencies that needed to be addressed including providing updated descriptions of recent committee activities, missing MBPAC meeting minutes and outdated information. Michael said he would address these matters. He also noted that bicycle friendly facilities were not included in recent improvements of MD 170/Aviation Blvd between Dorsey Road and Stoney Run Road. John noted that the 2014 ProWalk/ProBike/ProPlace conference was scheduled next month in Pittsburgh, PA. Michael said he is scheduled to give a couple of presentations there.

#### **5. Public Comment**

Emily said there is already a compilation of bicycle tours in Maryland.

#### **6. Adjournment** – Greg adjourned the meeting at 11:42 AM.

mbpac/8-8-14 mbpac meeting minutes